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Emailed

My name is Norman Plude and I'm from Seymour Connecticut, I'm here today to testify in favor of Bills 598, 893 and 5481.

I have grown Industrial Hemp at UConn under a research program in 2017 where I worked as lead outside cultivator. I have also grown medicinal hemp and recreational cannabis in Oregon. I have worked with and offered my suggestions to the the director of caucus research for the house Republican office, Jared Schmidt over the last month.

Bill 598,

regulations shall establish fees for any such license and provide, at a minimum, for the tracking and inspection of property used for any such growing, cultivation, production or processing, the testing of plants and products and processes for the disposal of plants and products that exceed requisite levels of tetrahydrocannabinol.

Registration fees must be based on the size of the grow facility and not just the fact that this is a hemp cultivation operation. Industrial Hemp, depending on how it is grown, can be grown as medicinal hemp exactly the same way that medicinal cannabis is grown in the state of Connecticut. Medicinal / industrial hemp cultivators will be growing for the most part inside to assure a higher quality of product but in doing so will be severely limited to the amount of space that can be used for medicinal hemp. Large outside cultivation areas I would recommend that outside Industrial Hemp cultivation be limited to current registered department of agriculture farms. I would also recommend that residence also be able to apply for small-scale, personal cultivation licenses that would allow for a craft hemp industry in the state of Connecticut. Everyone in this state should be able to grow hemp in one capacity or another, after all hemp is also a vegetable and can be eaten as such as raw cannabis. Medicinal hemp growers in Connecticut should have the opportunity to have their products tested for human consumption and sale as a Connecticut grown craft hemp CBD product.

Bill 893,

A pilot program shall be established for the purpose of studying the growth, cultivation and marketing of industrial hemp in a manner that ensures that only such department grows or cultivates such industrial hemp through the use of sites that are certified and registered.

There should be no restrictions on who can grow industrial hemp in Connecticut. Larger scale, Industrial Hemp cultivation should be reserved for registered department of agriculture farms within the state of Connecticut. Smaller-scale, inside grown hemp for medicinal purposes or personal use must also be allowed. The framework for a craft hemp industry can be mirrored from regulations for home brewed beer and wine.

Bill 5481, plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the tracking of land utilized in industrial hemp production, testing methods for determining the level of concentrations of

tetrahydrocannabinol in plants and disposal methods for plants or products that exceed the authorized level of tetrahydrocannabinol.

The tracking of industrial hemp should only be carried out if it is to be used explicitly for sale for human consumption other than personal use..

Thank you,
Norman Plude